

Our children are the forgotten victims in our justice system

Do you know how many children are missing each year?

There are nearly 800,000 children reported missing each year – that is more than 2,000 per day!¹

Do you know how many children will be sexually victimized before adulthood?

Girls: 1 in 5
and
Boys: 1 in 10
will be victimized²

Awareness about crimes committed against children has grown and left many families feeling vulnerable. It is important for parents and guardians to be aware and alert, but you and your child should not be afraid. The possibility that your child will be missing or sexually exploited is remote. Nevertheless, as parents and guardians you should do your best to keep your child safe and be prepared for the unthinkable. The information in this brochure can help you prevent your child from becoming missing or sexually exploited and provides a plan of action if your child does.



¹ As reported by Andrea J. Sedlak, David Finkelhor, Heather Hammer, and Dana J. Schultz, "National Estimates of Missing Children: An Overview," *National Incidence Studies of Missing, Abducted, Runaway, and Thrownaway Children*, Washington, DC: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, October 2002, page 5, an estimated 797,500 children were reported missing in 1999. An NCMEC review of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center missing-person reports shows a range of entries from 818,921 to 929,518 for the past 5 years. Traditionally 80% of these entries are for people younger than 18.

² David Finkelhor. "Current Information on the Scope and Nature of Child Sexual Abuse." *The Future of Children: Sexual Abuse of Children*, 1994, Volume 4, page 37.